

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the above amendments, claims 227, 359, 406, 412, 436, 441, 452, 458, 461, 469, 481, 493, 506, 519, 520 and 521 have been amended, and claims 305, 306, 271, 272 and 283 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Telephone Interview Summary and Discussion of Claim Amendments

The undersigned counsel for Applicants and Applicants' technical representative, Dr. Ron Ugolick, conducted a telephone interview on September 12, 2007 with Examiner Chan, and thank Examiner Chan for the courtesies extended to them. During that telephone interview:

(1) Examiner Chan said that dependent claims 305 and 306 depended from cancelled claims. Claims 305 and 306 are accordingly cancelled herein.

(2) Examiner Chan also said that claims which included "non-tacky" or "non-adhesive" were indefinite, and that this indefiniteness could be corrected by replacing those terms with "tack-free", "adhesive-free" or the like. Accordingly, claims 227, 359, 406, 412 and 436 have been amended to replace "non-tacky" with "tack-free" and claims 441, 452, 458, 461, 469, 519, 520 and 521 have been amended to replace "non-adhesive" with "pressure-sensitive adhesive-free."

(3) Examiner Chan further said that independent claims 481, 493 and 506 were "unclear." Clarifying amendments have been made to each of these claims. Additionally, to assist the Examiner with his understanding of these claims, the claims as amended are copied below with support for claim elements indicated therein in parentheses.

Generally, the Examiner's attention is directed to FIG. 25 and the detailed explanations thereof on pages 14-16. And referring to page 15, "[t]he calendaring station 588, the face cutting station 600, the liner cutting station 620 and the waste matrix station can essentially be arranged in any order except that the waste matrix station must follow the liner cutting station." None of claims 481, 493 and 506 includes that the liner strips are removed before they are cut. Also, the prior art does not disclose cutting liner strips and later removing the liner strips from a laminate web.

481. A forming method, comprising:

(a) passing a liner to a liner station (620) where liner weakened lines are formed in the liner to form liner strips;

(b) passing a facestock to a facestock station (600) where facestock weakened lines are formed in and through the facestock to form perimeters of printable media;

step (b) including the facestock being part of a laminate web which includes the liner;

(c) after steps (a) and (b), passing the laminate web (554) to a removal station (648) where some but not all of the liner strips are removed from the laminate web; and

(d) after step (c), passing the laminate web to a sheeting station (660) where the laminate web is sheeted into sheets of the printable media.

493. A forming method, comprising:

forming liner weakened lines (620) in a liner to form liner strips and waste strips;

cutting through a facestock (600) of a laminate web (554) which includes the liner to form perimeters of cards;

after the cutting and the forming, removing the waste strips (648) but not the liner strips from the laminate web; and

after the removing, sheeting (660) the laminate web into sheets of the cards.

506. A forming method, comprising:

forming liner weakened lines (620) in a liner to thereby form liner strips and liner waste strips;

cutting through a facestock (660) of a laminate web (554) which includes the liner to form facestock weakened lines which define outline perimeters of printable media;

after the cutting and the forming, removing (648) the liner waste strips from the laminate web; and

after the removing, sheeting (660) the laminate web into sheets of the printable media, each of the sheets including at least one liner strip.

When the Examiner said during the above-discussed telephone interview that claims 481, 493 and 506 were "unclear," Counsel and Dr. Ugolick assumed that he was alleging that they were indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. If, on the other hand, he was contending that the claims did not comply with the written description requirement (35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph) because they do not include

the limitation that the liner is adhered to the facestock when the liner strips are cut, Applicants disagree. They in fact do comply with the written description requirement. Nowhere in the specification is it stated that this limitation is "essential" to the invention as described in the application. Nor does the entirety of the specification indicate that the invention requires this limitation.

(4) Further, claims 271, 272 and 283, which were not discussed during the telephone interview, have been cancelled.

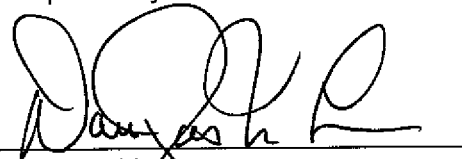
Concluding Remarks

As all of the claims now pending are in allowable condition, issuance of the Notice of Allowance for this application at an early date is in order and is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues, Examiner Chan is encouraged to telephone the counsel for Applicants at (310) 785-5384 to seek to resolve them.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0440. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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